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Dear Dan:

I am sure you are aware of the fact that flight-testing of System 4 has been proceeding very slowly because of the higher priority accorded other flight-test operations. In consequence, only a portion of the essential testing on the first production System 4 has been completed, and it is quite apparent now that the use of the vehicle as a medium for the acquisition of certain much desired environmental test data would necessitate intolerable delays in the acquisition of such information.

In view of this situation, and in further view of the fact that we believe it most improbable that anyone could gain information with respect to end usage of the equipment by viewing any of its major assemblies, we should like to secure your authorization and approval to conduct ground-based environmental tests on the principal complete assemblies of the second production system at one or another of the well-established environmental test laboratories in Los Angeles. Such tests would be conducted always in the presence of our own engineering representative and would not reveal significant information with respect to the capabilities of the units being tested, of the system with which they are associated, nor of the use to which they will ultimately be put. [REDACTED] of our organization has already discussed this matter with [REDACTED] and it is [REDACTED] impression that [REDACTED] would be strongly inclined to approve of such testing procedures as I have suggested. Accordingly, we would like to receive your authorization to conduct such tests at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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